REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 6-7 and 10-19; claims 2-3 and 8-9 are canceled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-7 and 10-19 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-8 and 10-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goodrum et al (US Patent No. 5,822,512). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims. The Applicant has amended claims1-8 and 10-19 to more clearly claim the invention to which the Applicant is entitled.

Systems based, in part, upon Master/Slave shared bus systems are vulnerable to system failure in the presence of certain kinds of slave unit failures. The present invention allows systems to recover from these failures without special purpose redundancy and resiliency hardware support.

The Applicant's present invention discloses switch recovery after crashing. The switch comprises a master unit and slave units and when a unit fails the Applicants invention does not need separate lines between the master and slave unit to recover. If the switch abnormally terminates due to master or slave unit failure, the switch may be recovered by accessing status information regarding the failed unit that survives the abnormal termination. The switch includes a software program that is incorporated in the switch that directs the master unit to avoid the failed slave unit and stores the slave unit status information. And, the failed slave units may be replaced with operation hardware such that the switch can continue to use the original slot.

The Goodrum reference discloses switching control from a first server to a second server in a fault tolerant system. An automatic server recovery (ASR) timer in the BIOS is included as a fail-safe mechanism, or a back-up to a base recovery system

-, which is cleared when certain software routines are executed. If the ASR timer expires, then an ASR recovery reboot executes. (col. 89, lines 1-20)
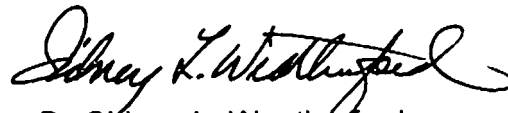
There is no backup as such in the Applicant's present invention. The Goodrum reference fails to disclose the use of a software program in the switch that directs the master unit of the switch to avoid the use of the failed slave unit. Goodrum fails to disclose a program instructing the master unit to avoid the failed slave unit when restarting. This being the case, the Goodrum reference lacks at least one limitation found in the amended independent claims and the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of amended independent claims 1 and 6 and the respective dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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